United Nations S/2006/678

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 16 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the International Compact with Iraq, issued on 1 August 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kirsti **Lintonen**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 16 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the International Compact with Iraq issued on 1 August 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union warmly welcomes the launching of the International Compact with Iraq by the Government of Iraq and the United Nations in New York on 27 July 2006, and underlines its readiness to participate actively and constructively in the preparatory and follow-up processes.

The European Union supports finalizing the Compact setting out Iraq's goals and capabilities in the key areas of political, security and economic reform. It underlines the importance of Iraqi ownership of the process of developing the Compact and the broad involvement of the international community, as well as the active participation of neighbours and partners in the region.

The European Union looks forward to the comprehensive national vision for Iraq, and to engaging through the preparatory group in developing a global package of commitments and benchmarking in support of this vision and of Iraqi priorities and goals in the three key areas of reform. In this connection, the European Union would like to underline the importance of a longer-term perspective and the need for appropriate monitoring of the implementation of the Compact.